

# Wetland Habitat Conditions – Fall 2016

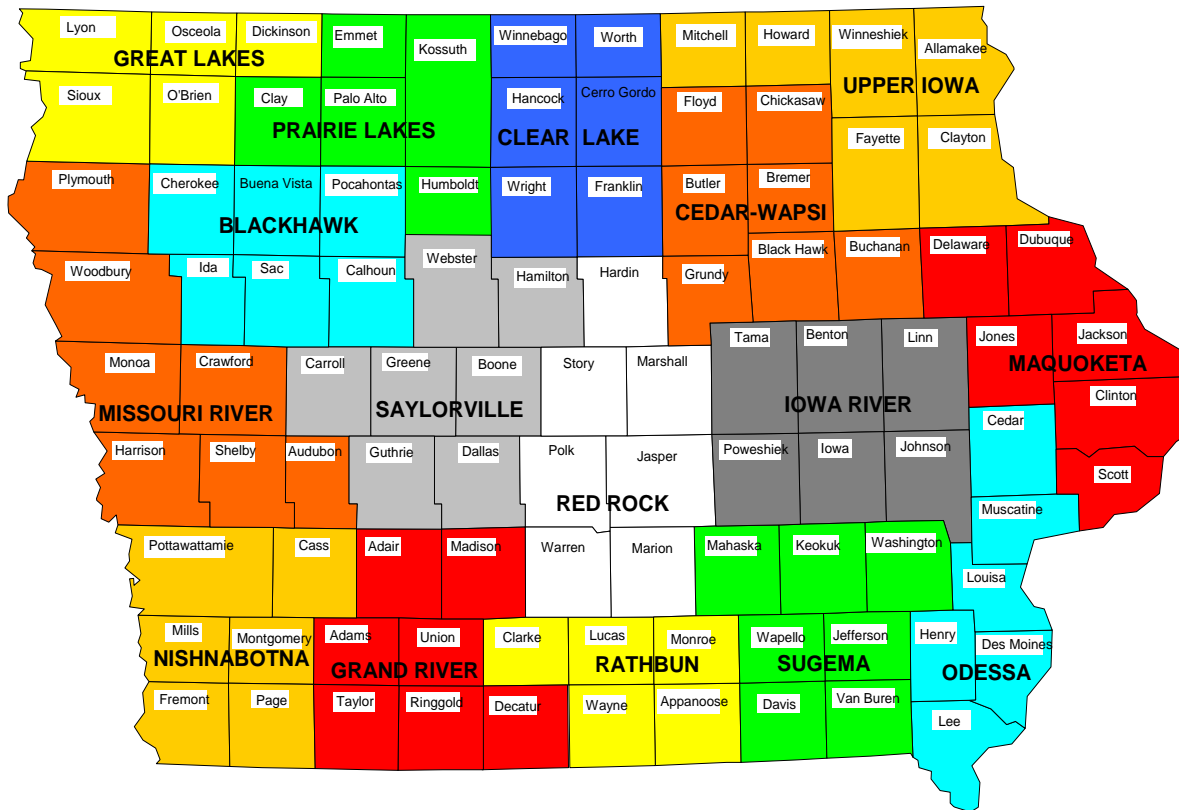
(Updated October 20th, 2016)

## DNR WILDLIFE UNITS

Blackhawk  
Cedar-Wapsi  
Clear Lake  
Grand River  
Great Lakes  
Iowa River

Maquoketa  
Missouri River  
Nishnabotna  
Odessa  
Prairie Lakes

Rathbun  
Red Rock  
Saylorville  
Sugema  
Upper Iowa



### Definitions Of Terms Commonly Used In Descriptions Of Areas -

- Crest water level refers to the established optimum or target water level for the lake or wetland or the maximum water level legally allowed on the lake or wetland.
- Emergent vegetation refers to plants like cattails, bulrushes, burreed, etc., that are rooted on the bottom of the marsh but project above the surface of the water.
- Submergent vegetation refers to plants like sago pond weed, curly leave pondweed, wild celery, coontail, etc., that grow beneath the surface of the water. The tops of these plants sometimes reach the surface in shallow water. Water clarity and fish populations largely determine the amount of submergent vegetation in wetlands. Wetlands with good water clarity and few, if any, fish usually have good submergent plant communities that attract a wide variety of ducks.
- Large boats are 16-24 foot boats with 20 hp or larger outboard motors.
- Mid-size boats are 12-15 foot boats with 15 hp or smaller outboard motors
- Small boats are generally shallow draft boats that can be paddled, rowed or poled, or propelled with a small outboard motor (<10 hp) or an electric trolling motor.
- WMA is the acronym for Wildlife Management Area, which includes lands owned and managed by the Wildlife Bureau of the DNR.
- WPA is the acronym for Waterfowl Production Area, which includes lands owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and, in most cases, managed by the Wildlife Bureau of the DNR.

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## BLACK HAWK WILDLIFE UNIT

Clint Maddix, Wildlife Biologist Updated: 10-20-16

### BUENA VISTA COUNTY

#### Little Storm Lake

Water levels: Little Storm Lake is currently at crest elevation.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation has developed around the shoreline and there are scattered pockets throughout the basin, little or no submergent vegetation is present.

Boat Access: The rock boat ramp across from Frank Starr Park is currently accessible.

Notes: Little Storm Lake's elevation is controlled by the main lake and should remain usable through the fall.

#### Storm Lake

Water levels: Storm Lake is currently at crest elevation.

Vegetation: Very little emergent vegetation present. No submergent vegetation is present.

Boat Access: Storm Lake should be accessible for all boats this fall.

Notes:

### CALHOUN COUNTY

#### South Twin Lake

Water levels: The water level is at or near crest elevation.

Vegetation: Narrow bands of emergent vegetation have developed along the shoreline. Submergent vegetation is almost non-existent.

Boat Access: A rock boat ramp can be used for launching small and mid-size boats.

Notes: The north side of South Twin Lake is a Wildlife Refuge and closed to all access from Sept. 1 to Jan. 31. There are two marker buoys on the lake to the north of the ramp that mark the refuge line.

### CARROLL COUNTY

#### Artesian Lake

Water levels: The water level is currently above crest elevation. The 30-acre wetland is fed by three artesian wells and should remain at this stage throughout the fall.

Vegetation: There is nice interspersed and diversity of emergent vegetation and much more open water than in years prior.

Boat Access: A rock boat ramp can be used to launch small or mid-size boats.

Notes: Navigation may be difficult due to emergent vegetation, pre-scouting recommended.

### POCAHONTAS COUNTY

#### Little Clear Lake

Water levels: The water level is at or near crest elevation.

Vegetation: There is excellent submergent vegetation throughout the lake with emergent vegetation along the shoreline.

Boat Access: There are two boat ramps that can be used to launch small boats.

Notes:

### **Lizard Lake**

Water levels: Lizard Lake is at or near crest elevation.

Vegetation: The Lake is covered with dense vegetation; however there are open areas in the middle.

Boat Access: There is one concrete boat ramp that is usable by boats of all sizes and two primitive boat ramps which are only usable by small boats.

Notes: The boat ramps have varying degrees of accessibility. Pre-scouting is recommended.

### **Shimon Marsh**

Water levels: The water level is currently being drawn down but has a fair amount of water in the Southern basin and good sheet water on Northern basin

Vegetation: The marsh has fair stands of emergent vegetation and scattered pockets of submergent vegetation.

Boat Access: There is no boat access on this area.

Notes: This is a walk-in area.

### **Sunken Grove**

Water levels: The water level is currently slightly below crest elevation.

Vegetation: The marsh has fair stands of emergent vegetation and scattered pockets of submergent vegetation.

Boat Access: A concrete boat ramp on the west lobe of the marsh can be used to launch small and mid-size boats. A primitive gravel boat ramp is located in the eastern lobe of the marsh and is only usable by small boats.

Notes:

## **SAC COUNTY**

### **Black Hawk Wildlife Area**

Water levels: The Black Hawk Lake Inlet and DU Marsh are currently at crest elevation. State Marsh is currently 8 inches below crest elevation. Adjacent smaller wetlands and pits are at or near crest.

Vegetation: Most wetlands have very dense stands of vegetation. DU Marsh has a heavy stand of emergent vegetation.

Boat Access: State Marsh has a rock boat ramp that is usable. The Black Hawk Lake Inlet has a concrete boat ramp that is usable.

Notes: Pre-scouting is recommended due to the current vegetation conditions. Boat access may be difficult.

### **Black Hawk Lake**

Water levels: Black Hawk Lake is currently 5 inches above crest elevation.

Vegetation: The lake currently has pockets of submergent and emergent vegetation that are a result of increased water clarity due to a recent in-lake fish renovation project.

Boat Access: There are 3 concrete boat ramps that can be used by all boats of any size.

Notes:

### **Burrow's Pond**

Water levels: Burrow's Pond is currently at crest elevation. Adjacent smaller wetlands are also at crest except for Rutledge marsh which is currently in drawdown.  
Vegetation: Good stands of emergent and submergent vegetation present.  
Boat Access: The rock boat ramp is usable for small and mid-sized boats.  
Notes: Pre-scouting is recommended. Most of the area is only accessible by walk-in hunters.

### **Kiowa Marsh**

Water levels: All wetlands on the Kiowa Marsh complex are at crest elevation, except Feilmeier Pond which is in partial drawn down, but still has good water.  
Vegetation: All wetlands have emergent vegetation along their shorelines, while the north and south main pools have fair amounts of submergent vegetation.  
Boat Access: The rock boat ramp is usable for small and mid-sized boats only.  
Notes:

### **Sac City Wetland Complex**

Water levels: Sac City Wetland Complex main basin has water; smaller adjacent wetlands have dried up.  
Vegetation: Diverse vegetation is present on the basins.  
Boat Access: None - walk in only.  
Notes: This is a walk-in area. Many of the wetlands are isolated and difficult to get to. Some of the smaller basins have filled in with vegetation.

### **Tomahawk Marsh**

Water levels: All wetlands on Tomahawk Marsh are currently at crest elevation.  
Vegetation: All wetlands have some emergent vegetation along the shorelines and some have submergent vegetation as well.  
Boat Access: None  
Notes: This is a walk-in area. Pre-scouting is recommended due to current vegetation conditions.

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## **CEDAR-WAPSI WILDLIFE UNIT**

Jason Auel, Wildlife Biologist Updated: 10-18-16

### **BREMER COUNTY**

#### **Leopold Area**

Water levels: Water levels are at normal crest now.  
Vegetation: Despite the flooding earlier in the Fall, excellent vegetation is abundant in nearly all wetlands.  
Boat Access: There is no boat access on this area.  
Notes: Water levels are back to normal. Good hunting opportunities are available.

#### **Sweet Marsh**

Water levels: Water levels are at normal fall crest.  
Vegetation: Most areas have excellent emergent and submergent vegetation.  
Boat Access: The area can be accessed by small and mid-size boats. Outboard motor use may be difficult in some areas due to the dense vegetation.  
Notes: Water levels are back to normal now.

## BUTLER COUNTY

### Big Marsh

Water levels: Water levels are at normal fall crest levels.

Vegetation: Excellent emergent and submergent vegetation is available in the area.

Boat Access: The area can be accessed by small and mid-sized boats. Outboard motor use may be difficult in some areas due to the dense vegetation.

Notes: Walk in areas are available as well.

## CLEAR LAKE WILDLIFE UNIT

TJ Herrick, Wildlife Biologist Updated: 10-20-16

Heavy rain had fallen throughout much of this wildlife unit in September. However, many of the wildlife areas are back to near normal fall crest. Hunters should still scout and hunt with caution.

## CERRO GORDO COUNTY

### Union Hills

Water levels: Most wetlands are full including a newly restored 250 acre basin on the west side. Of this 250 acres, 180 acres sits within the newly established waterfowl refuge and 70 acres is huntable by boat. New boat ramp is located just north of County Road B55.

Vegetation: Emergent and submergent vegetation has developed in most wetlands.

Boat Access: There is one boat access on this area, with access being difficult due to abundant emergent vegetation.

Notes: Pre-scouting is highly encouraged.

### Ventura Marsh

Water Level: The water level is at normal fall crest.

Vegetation: The marsh is densely vegetated with a variety of emergent vegetation.

Boat Access: Boat accessibility will be possible this year.

Notes: Pre-scouting is highly encouraged.

## HANCOCK COUNTY

### Crystal Hills WPA

Water levels: Wetlands are near crest.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation has developed on all of the wetlands except the largest one which has submergent vegetation.

Boat Access: Only the largest wetland is accessible by boat.

Notes: This area will provide good walk-in hunting opportunities.

### Gladfelter WMA

Water levels: Wetlands are at crest.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation has developed in most of the wetlands.

Boat Access: There are no boat accesses on this area.

Notes: This area will provide walk-in hunting opportunities.

### Eagle Lake

Water Level: The marsh is near normal fall crest.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation has developed across most of the marsh, with pockets of open water.

Boat Access: Boats will be able to access the area this year.

Notes:

### East Twin Lake WMA

Water Level: The marsh is at crest.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation has developed around the perimeter of the main pool.

Boat Access: Small boats will likely be able to access the marsh this year.

Notes: West Twin Lake is a shallow open water lake with no shoreline vegetation, but it can be accessed by boat.

### Meredith Marsh

Water levels: Wetlands are at crest.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation is dense in all wetlands.

Boat Access: Small boats will be able to access the main east marshes this year.

Notes:

## **WINNEBAGO COUNTY**

### Harmon Lake

Water levels: Wetlands are at crest

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation growth is good and nicely interspersed.

Boat Access: Small boats will likely be able to access the west, center, and east pools this year.

Notes: Some walk-in hunting opportunities are available.

### Myre Slough

Water level: The marsh is near crest at this time.

Vegetation: The vegetation is very dense.

Boat Access: Only small to mid-sized boats will likely be able to access the marsh this year – due to the boat channel being packed with emergent vegetation.

Notes: Walk-in hunting opportunities will be available.

## **WORTH COUNTY**

### Elk Creek - Pool A

Water level: The water level is near normal fall crest.

Vegetation: Vegetated mud flats fringe the pool.

Boat Access: The pool cannot be accessed by boat at the current water level.

Notes:

### Elk Creek - Pool B

Water level: Water level is still a little above normal fall crest.

Vegetation: Vegetation growth is very dense.

Boat Access: Boats can access the area at the current water level.

Notes: Large boats should be able to access the area.

### Elk Creek - Pool C

Water level: The water level is at normal fall crest.

Vegetation: Vegetation growth is good and interspersed nicely with open-water areas.

Boat Access: The boat ramp is currently usable again after the high water in September.

Notes:

### Rice Lake

Water Level: The main lake is near normal fall crest. Joice Slough, at the southeast end of the main lake, is near crest.

Vegetation: There is abundant emergent vegetation in the main lake. Emergent and submergent vegetation is present in Joice Slough.

Boat Access: Boat access to Rice Lake and Joice Slough is available.

Notes:

### Hanlontown Slough

Water level: The water level is at normal fall crest.

Vegetation: Vegetation growth is dense and interspersed with areas of open water.

Boat Access: Small boat access.

Notes:

### Silver Lake and Marsh

Water level: The lake is at normal fall crest.

Vegetation: Both the lake and the marsh are densely vegetated with emergents.

Boat Access: Boat access is possible on the lake and small boats can access the marsh.

Notes:

## **WRIGHT COUNTY**

### Big Wall Lake

Water Level: The water level is at crest.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation is abundant and nicely interspersed with pockets of open water. Submergent vegetation is abundant in open water areas.

Boat Access: Most all sizes of boats can be used to access the area.

Notes:

### Elm Lake

Water levels: The water level is at crest.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation is sparsely distributed along the shoreline on the south end. A couple of islands of cattails persist in the center of the lake. Submergent vegetation is sparse due to the high carp population.

Boat Access: Boats can be used to access the area.

Notes:

### Lower Morse Lake Wetland Complex

Water levels: All wetlands on the complex have water.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation is well developed in most wetlands.

Boat Access: Morse Lake is accessible by boat.

Notes: There are some walk-in opportunities on the Lower Morse complex.

## **GRAND RIVER WILDLIFE UNIT**

Chad Paup, Wildlife Biologist Updated: 10-20-16

## **ADAMS COUNTY**

### Lake Icaria

Water levels: Normal pool.  
Vegetation: Emergent vegetation cannot be maintained on either Lake Icaria or Zimmerman Pool.  
Boat Access: The main lake is accessible by all size boats. Zimmerman Pool is walk-in only.  
Notes: Zimmerman pool is under construction to fix a tube at this time.

## UNION COUNTY

### Mitchell Marsh

Water levels: Normal pool  
Vegetation: Very little emergent vegetation.  
Boat Access: Yes  
Notes:

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## GREAT LAKES WILDLIFE UNIT

Chris LaRue, Wildlife Biologist Updated: 9-6-16

## DICKINSON COUNTY

### Christopherson Slough

Water levels: Continued rains have water levels still at crest level for the main marsh. Many small and large wetlands have some water for walk-in hunting opportunities as well.  
Vegetation: Vegetation is very good in both the main marsh and many wetlands that lacked water for past few years now have excellent flooded vegetation  
Boat Access: Boat access is good.  
Notes: Most wetlands in the complex have some water and vegetation for excellent walk-in hunting opportunities.

### Diamond Lake

Water levels: The Lake has been at or above crest all year with the heavy rains.  
Vegetation: Even with the high water conditions Diamond Lake has some of the best emergent and sub-emergent vegetation with good water quality for migratory waterfowl.  
Boat Access: Access is good for large and small boats but be aware the heavy sub-emergent vegetation may be a challenge for some outboard motors. This is a good problem to have and access will improve as the season progresses.  
Notes: Many of the larger marshes have good water for walk-in hunting opportunities.

### Dugout Creek

Water levels: Recent rains have Dugout Creek at crest elevation. However, the marsh is in excellent condition and some of the larger wetlands in the complex have some water for walk-in hunting now.  
Vegetation: The area has excellent emergent and submergent vegetation.  
Boat Access: The area can be accessed by small or large boats with outboard motors along the main channel to the main pool.  
Notes: The marsh is in good condition with some newly flooded wetlands for good walk-in hunting opportunities.



### Garlock Slough

Water levels: High lake levels on West Lake Okoboji have Garlock on the same elevation this year which is above normal. The high water is into areas of vegetation that have lacked water for the past few seasons. Some of the larger and smaller wetlands have good water for walk-in hunting opportunities.

Vegetation: There is abundant emergent vegetation and some improved submergent vegetation throughout the main pool.

Boat Access: The main slough is accessible by small boats, but does not have a boat access. Kayaks or canoes would work best along with walk-in hunting.

Notes: Garlock Slough is in good condition however the high water allowed carp to re-infest the marsh in 2016. The Iowa DNR and partners may be working on this system in the future to improve aquatic vegetation for water quality and to keep it rough fish free. Currently the marsh looks good for many waterfowl species. Hunters should note that many wetlands over the past several years have been restored on the west side of the Garlock Complex. Many have newly flooded vegetation making it very attractive for migratory waterfowl and hunting opportunities.

### Grovers Lake

Water levels: Grovers Lake has been at crest level or above all season. Although it has experienced high water the Lake looks excellent.

Vegetation: Excellent stands of emergent and submergent vegetation have developed on the area over the past several years. Dense stands of vegetation may make it hard to access smaller pools on Grovers Lake. However, improved rat activity may now improve marsh conditions for waterfowl hunting.

Boat Access: Boat access should be good for both small and larger boats with outboard motors.

Notes: The area also still offers some good walk-in hunting opportunities on the west bay.

### Hales Slough

Water levels: The water level is at crest elevation with Spirit Lake and due to the very wet conditions this year. Some of the larger wetlands in the complex have water for walk-in hunting opportunity.

Vegetation: There is good emergent and submergent vegetation in the wetland.

Boat Access: The area is accessible to small boats.

Notes: The east part of this complex away from the main lake has some walk-in hunting opportunity.

### Horseshoe Lake WMA

Water levels: The water level is at normal crest due to heavy rains this year.

Vegetation: The area has excellent vegetation and good looking submergent plants providing very good habitat conditions.

Boat Access: Boat access looks good for small boats with the normal water level conditions.

Notes: Horseshoe Lake WMA is outside the Jemmerson Slough Waterfowl Refuge and therefore **IS** open to public hunting. The area also provides good walk-in hunting opportunities.

### Jemmerson Slough

Water levels: The water level has been at or above crest elevation in all bays of the Waterfowl Refuge this year. The West Bay was dewatered to establish new vegetation in 2015.

Vegetation: Even with the high water conditions the Refuge has very good vegetation and habitat conditions for waterfowl. The West Bay is still pretty attractive to waterfowl at this time but the high water this year has larger wetlands with newly flooded vegetation creating even better habitat conditions to some degree.

Boat Access: **The pools with boat accesses are inside the WATERFOWL REFUGE and therefore Closed To Hunting.**

Notes: **The Jemmerson Slough Wetlands Complex is about 1,100 acres in size. About 665 acres is included in the Waterfowl Refuge that was established in 2009. The refuge is closed to all**

**public access when the duck season is open. There are some wetlands outside the refuge that can provide good walk-in hunting opportunities when water conditions allow.**

### **Kattleson-Hogsback Complex**

**Water levels:** High water conditions in 2016 have not been good on vegetation for West Hottes. Pumping was not realistic with the heavy rains and high water levels on the Lakes. Later in the summer water was pumped down on West Hottes to help with stressing vegetation. Currently West Hottes is +/- 12 inches below normal crest elevation with East Hottes and Spirit Lake.

Marble Lake was allowed to stay at crest elevation with East Hottes and Spirit Lake due to the high water this year again making manipulation unrealistic. These lakes along with Grovers Lake intercept 19% of the watershed for Spirit Lake making this a significant water quality and waterfowl project for the Iowa Great Lakes. With the new infrastructure work will continue into the coming years to enhance these Lakes

**Vegetation:** Vegetation looks good on West Hottes and Marble Lake for improved waterfowl habitat conditions. However, the high water conditions took a toll on these lakes not allowing the submergent vegetation to thrive in 2016. Conditions and vegetation are still greatly improved and will continue to be enhanced as possible with drawdowns as needed in the future.

**Boat Access:** Recently a bit of additional water was added to West Hottes to bring it up to within 12-inches of crest and to improve boat access. Hunters with large outboards may want to evaluate West Hottes prior to putting in for navigation. Marble Lake has excellent water for easy access for large and small boats with outboard motors.

**Notes:** Waterfowl hunters should be aware Marble Lake later this fall will be in the process of pumping to enhance aquatic vegetation again and for fish stocking next spring if possible in 2017. Larger wetlands have good water in them for walk-in hunting opportunities.

### **Little Swan Lake**

**Water levels:** The water level in the main lake is at crest with heavy rains this year. The very old main structure has a blowout around the east end which is causing the lake to drop below crest elevation at times. The design plans have been completed and the project for restoration of Little Swan Lake may start construction in early October 2016 to install the new outlet structure. The new structure will allow water levels to be manipulated to remove the infestation of rough fish from the lake and to help establish improved aquatic vegetation for enhanced water quality and migratory waterfowl benefits.

**Vegetation:** The west bay has emergent vegetation, but only sparse submergent vegetation. The lake is in poor water quality and habitat condition.

**Boat Access:** Access is good for all sizes of boats on the main lake.

**Notes:** The large wetlands in this complex should provide some good walk-in hunting opportunities. Hunters should also note that starting in September some water may be removed from the lake to help with the new structure construction and to start the lake restoration process.

### **Sidel Marsh**

**Water levels:** The water level is at crest elevation.

**Vegetation:** The area has very good emergent and submergent vegetation along with good water quality.

**Boat Access:** No boat access is available.

**Notes:** Area has good water for walk-in hunting opportunities and good habitat.

### **Spring Run**

**Water levels:** Water levels in most of the area are all at or near normal crest elevations. Most of the larger and smaller wetlands across the complex have good water.

**Vegetation:** Vegetation conditions vary, however much of the complex with the high water has a lot of newly flooded vegetation this season compared to previous years for migratory waterfowl.

Boat Access: Lily Lake and Spring Lake WMA may be accessible by small boat, but the dense vegetation make movement very difficult in some areas. There is excellent walk-in hunting opportunity within the entire complex.

Pleasant Lake WMA is accessible by all boats with outboard motors.

Prairie Lake WMA is accessible by all boats with outboard motors.

Notes: Most of the large wetlands have very good water and will provide good walk-in hunting opportunities. The Spring Run Complex has a wide variety of habitat conditions, which makes it very appealing to migrating waterfowl.

### Welch Lake Complex

Water levels: The Welch Lake complex looks very good and water levels are at or just below normal pool elevations. Most of the larger and smaller wetlands have water for walk-in hunting opportunities.

Vegetation: Most wetlands have good emergent vegetation and some have excellent stands of submergent vegetation. High water in some wetlands and vegetation will provide good habitat conditions.

Boat Access: Welch Lake can be accessed by most boats.

Notes: The Welch Lake Complex also has excellent walk-in hunting opportunities.

### Yager Slough

Water levels: The water level is near crest elevation.

Vegetation: The main marsh has good emergent and submergent vegetation.

Boat Access: There are no boat accesses on this area. Small boats have been launched from the highway right of way. Dense vegetation and low water may make boating difficult.

Notes: Excellent walk-in hunting opportunities are available on a couple of the large wetlands in the complex with good vegetation for many species of waterfowl.

## **OSCEOLA COUNTY**

### Rush Lake

Water levels: The water level is at crest elevation due to heavy rains this year.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation is good and after the drought of 2012 and a new outlet channel being cleaned in 2013 the lake looks very good with some improved submergent vegetation and waterfowl habitat conditions.

Boat Access: Boat access is good for large and small boats.

Notes: The channel cleanout project was intended to improve aquatic vegetation to improve the water quality and waterfowl habitat conditions. In future years we may lower levels to enhance vegetation on Rush Lake as needed. At this time the lake looks good for waterfowl hunting.

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## **IOWA RIVER WILDLIFE UNIT**

Tim Thompson, Wildlife Biologist Updated: 10-20-16

## **BENTON COUNTY**

### Dudgeon Lake

Water levels: The Cedar River completely flooded Dudgeon Lake including over Hwy 150 the last week of September. The river levels have dropped back into the banks and we have added the remaining stoplogs in the control structures to hold the maximum water in those pools with control structures.

Vegetation: Flooding has taken out most of the aquatic vegetation in the marshes. Cattails and willows are remaining for cover but there is not much aquatic seed left for duck food.

Boat Access: Both ramps are accessible for small boats.

Notes: Hwy 150 had flood waters over it north of Vinton. Thus, much of Dudgeon Lake was under water. Be careful of new, deeper scour holes and flood debris throughout the area as the water recedes.

## JOHNSON COUNTY

### Hawkeye Wildlife Area

Water levels: Currently, the Coralville Reservoir level falling but it will still be 12 feet above the 685 level requested for the October 22 duck opener. As Iowa River inflows decrease, lake levels may drop as much as one foot per day. We have requested that the Corp of Engineers hold at the maximum fall pool of 686.4 msl for the remainder of the duck season when they are able to bring the water levels down. This will probably happen during the first week of November. Most small marshes have water and should be huntable unless they are with the Coralville Lake area that is flooding.

Vegetation: Vegetation on the reservoir area has had an excellent growing season but the high water has knock most of the vegetation down. Willows are growing throughout the reservoir area and will provide good concealment cover for hunters. Emergent vegetation is good on most of the smaller marshes.

Boat Access: The Babcock Access boat ramp will be useable on October 22 but some caution will be needed on the access road. Water comes off the access road at the 697 level, thus, until Saturday morning we expect some water will still be over the road. There may be some road erosion and/or debris on the roadway. Greencastle Avenue north boat ramp will be under water and NOT available for use. The gravel ramps at Matson Pond and Crescent Pond will also both be NOT available. Water will be flooding portions of Swan Lake Road west of Greencastle Avenue, especially in the Matson Pond and Island Marsh vicinity. Greencastle Avenue will also have flood water.

Notes: The wildlife refuge closed on September 12 and will remain closed until late December.

### Swan Lake

Water levels: The water is higher than normal.

Vegetation: The marsh is mostly open water with limited vegetation around the perimeter.

Boat Access: There is no boat access on this area.

Notes:

## TAMA COUNTY

### Otter Creek

Water levels: Water levels are currently near crest in all pools since we were able to fill segments within inflows provided by heavy rains. Segments 1 and 7 have good water and can be accessed with large boats and walk-in hunting opportunities. Segment 4 and 4a have water and will allow good walk-in hunting opportunities. Both of the refuge segments both have good water at this time.

Vegetation: All segments have fair to good vegetation conditions and will provide an adequate food source for migrant waterfowl. Barnyard grass and bidens are providing the majority of seed that waterfowl will use.

Boat Access: Segments 1, 6 and 7 will allow boat access for large and small boats. The rollers are place between segments 4 and 6. The rollers are limited to 14 foot boats and under, due to excessive damage to the dikes and rollers. Driving posts into the dike and utilizing electric wenchers is also prohibited at the roller site.

Notes:

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## MAQUOKETA WILDLIFE UNIT

Curt Kemmerer, Wildlife Biologist Updated 9-21-16

### CLINTON COUNTY

#### Goose Lake

Water levels: Water levels have not yet returned to full pool on the north half of the area, after being drawn down all summer to complete infrastructure repairs and habitat enhancement projects. The north half is still over one foot below full pool. Hunters should expect water to be about 1.5 feet deep in the marsh. Water levels are at full pool on the south end.

Vegetation: The cattails have choked in the far north end of the north pool, with no open water area. The vegetation opens up as you move south toward the dike, and looks typical of recent years. Those open areas have some nice interspersions of emergent vegetation, with a lot of floating duck weed and some submerged vegetation to contend with. The center pool has remained ringed with cattail and is very thick with lily pads and arrowhead in the open water area across the center. The south pool remains nearly choked with vegetation due to several years with the required lower water levels. Walk in hunters can find open areas along the dike at the far south end. The DNR has completed some late summer aerial spraying to open up more of the cattail areas. Conditions should improve as the season progresses.

Boat Access: Boat access should be feasible for smaller mud motor boats on the pools north of Highway 136. The boat channel for the gravel launch just off the highway has been opened up about halfway out through the cattails, which is as far as equipment could get this summer.

Notes: Scouting for depth/accessibility is highly recommended for boat hunters.

### JACKSON COUNTY

#### Green Island

Water levels: Water level on the west side of channel 4 is very close to full. Water level on the east side is over 1.5 feet higher than normal

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation is dense throughout the area. The traditional open water areas are thick with lotus, lily pads and arrowhead. Most open water is also choked with submergent vegetation. Early summer river levels allowed us to plant corn in most of the sub-impoundments in the refuge. Annual weed growth is limited on the area due to higher river levels during the second half of the summer. River Bulrush has made a good come-back in the flats on the entire area.

Boat Access: Access by boats on west side of Channel 4 is normal for an opener here. Access will be difficult on the east side once you leave the dredged channel, as usual for outboards, although mud motors will be fine.

Notes: These water levels are not typical for this time of year. Access is pretty good.  
Reminder: Channel 5 is a NO WAKE zone (just like Channel 4) and will be enforced.

### JONES COUNTY

#### Muskrat Slough

Water levels: Water levels are at full pool.

Vegetation: The cattail fringe is dense but has remained fairly consistent. The open water area has lots of scattered rushes throughout. The entire open water area is thick with submerged coontail.

Boat Access: Boat access will be feasible for smaller boats. Outboards could have trouble with the submerged vegetation.

Notes:

## **SCOTT COUNTY**

### **Princeton**

Water levels: Water levels are above normal for this time of year, due to continued high river levels. The water levels in the public hunting area are at full pool.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation is dense. The fringes of bulrush and cattail have remained relatively stable while the open water areas are dominated by lotus and arrowhead. The lotus beds are very thick this year. Wild rice continues to expand on the area as well. The water remained higher than usual for most of the summer causing a noticeable lack of annual moist soil plants (duck food) compared to last year, although some is present.

Boat Access: Accessible for all boats.

Notes:

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## **MISSOURI RIVER WILDLIFE UNIT**

Doug Chafa, Wildlife Biologist

NO REPORT

## **HARRISON COUNTY**

### **Round Lake**

Water levels:

Vegetation:

Boat Access:

Notes:

### **Nobles Lake**

Water levels:

Vegetation:

Boat Access:

Notes:

### **Tyson Bend**

Water levels:

Vegetation:

Boat Access:

Notes:

### **Soldier Bend**

Water levels:

Vegetation:

Boat Access:

Notes:

### **California Bend**

Water levels:

Vegetation:

Boat Access:

Notes:

## **MONONA COUNTY**

### **Badger Lake**

Water levels:

Vegetation:

Boat Access:

Notes:

### **Louisville Bend**

Water levels:

Vegetation:

Boat Access:

Notes:

### **Tieville Bend**

Water levels:

Vegetation:

Boat Access:

Notes:

## **WOODBURY COUNTY**

### **Browns Lake**

Water levels:

Vegetation:

Boat Access:

Notes:

### **Luton WMA**

Water levels:

Vegetation:

Boat Access:

Notes:

### **Owego Complex**

Water levels:

Vegetation:

Boat Access:

Notes:

### **Snyder Bend WMA**

Water levels:

Vegetation:

Boat Access:

Notes:

### **Table Marsh WMA**



Water levels:

Vegetation:

Boat access:

Notes:

### Winnebago Bend WMA

Water levels:

Vegetation:

Boat access:

Notes:

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## **NISHNABOTNA WILDLIFE UNIT**

Matt Dollison, Wildlife Biologist Updated: 10-20-16

### **FREMONT COUNTY**

#### Riverton – Main Area

Water levels: Water levels are at the normal full pool at this time.

Vegetation: Wet conditions the past two years have caused dense cattails, river bulrush, broadleaf arrowhead, and perennial smartweed to dominate the northern portion of the marsh including most of the refuge. The south end has more valuable barnyard grass and annual smartweed. Many of the open/deeper water areas have been overtaken by American lotus. Very few openings have been disked/mowed this year because of the wet conditions. Boat hunters should expect to have to fight through a significant amount of vegetation.

Boat Access: Some of the vegetation has started to die back so outboards should be able to get around at least marginally now. There is adequate water to accommodate all boats.

Notes: The public hunting area and all non-cropped refuge areas have sufficient water to hold waterfowl. The corn in the cropped refuge segment was harvested on 9-30-16.

#### Riverton – Jensen Tract

Water levels: The water level is at full pool.

Vegetation: The vegetation is very dense. Very few openings and paths have been disked/mowed.

Boat Access: There is good water which should accommodate all boats. Boats with outboard motors will probably have issues getting around until the vegetation dies back/hunters have created more openings.

Notes: The public hunting area and refuge have sufficient water to hold waterfowl.

#### Forney Lake

Water levels: The water level is high. Some parts of the marsh are almost 4 feet deep.

Vegetation: Much of the formerly dense river bulrush has been knocked back by the high water level and an aerial herbicide application in the summer of 2015. There is a great amount of relatively open water in both the hunting area and the refuge.

Boat Access: There is boat access to a very large amount of the hunting area on the east side of the marsh.

Notes:

#### Copeland Bend

Water levels: Recent rainfall has reduced the width of the mudflats around the excavated wetlands, so there is more huntable cover adjacent to the water than there was during the teal season.



Vegetation: The excavations with deeper water in them have very little vegetation in them, however the recent rainfall has created more shallow water habitat with flooded vegetation.

Boat Access: Almost all walk-in hunting. Dragging small boats/kayaks could be an option in some areas. The river boat ramps are open.

Notes: Water depths throughout the excavated wetlands are inconsistent and several sudden deep areas exist.

### **M. U. Payne (Formerly Frazer's Bend)**

Water levels: There is a good amount of water in almost all of the excavations. Huntability exists next to most of all the excavated wetlands.

Vegetation: Although many of the deeper excavations do not have significant vegetation present, there are several locations that have recently flooded annual vegetation that should be attractive for ducks.

Boat Access: Almost all walk-in hunting. Dragging small boats/kayaks could be an option in some areas. The river boat ramps are open.

Notes: Water depths throughout the excavated wetlands are inconsistent and several sudden deep areas exist. On the north end, native prairie site prep disking has left limited concealment cover around several of the excavations.

### **Cooper Creek**

Water levels: Recent rainfall has filled the entire middle segment with water along with excavated areas in the north and south segment.

Vegetation: The recent flooding has created a good amount of shallow flooded annual vegetation that should be attractive for dabbling ducks.

Boat Access: Almost all walk-in hunting. Dragging small boats/kayaks could be an option in some areas.

### **Draper Bottoms**

Water levels: There are several small shallow wet areas throughout the property and one larger deeper excavation in the northeast corner of the property.

Vegetation: Recent rainfall has created several areas with shallow flooded annual vegetation that should be attractive for dabbling ducks.

Boat Access: Walk-in access only.

Notes: All of the dikes have now been mowed so walk-in access is easier.

## **MILLS COUNTY**

### **Willow Slough**

Water levels: There is a good amount of water in the basin.

Vegetation: Much of the basin has been vegetated with cattails and lotus, but there are some pockets of beneficial flooded annuals. Muskrats have created some openings.

Boat Access: Smaller to mid-size boats should be able to use much of the basin, but they will have issues fighting cattails and lotus.

Notes: Cattails will provide plenty of cover for teal hunters.

### **Haynie Slough**

Water levels: There is good water in the basin, however most of the water is completely choked with cattails.

Vegetation: Mainly cattails. Muskrats have created a few openings.

Boat Access: Almost all walk-in hunting. Dragging small boats/kayaks could be an option in some areas.

Notes: This is a historically shallow wetland that commonly goes completely dry.

### **Noddleman Island**

Water levels: The excavations are holding good water.

Vegetation: A great deal of beneficial water plantain has grown in the shallower parts of the excavations. The plant community present should be attractive to ducks.

Boat Access: Almost all walk-in hunting. Dragging small boats/kayaks could be an option. The river boat ramps are open.

Notes: Water depths throughout the excavated wetlands are inconsistent and several sudden deep areas exist.

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## ODESSA WILDLIFE UNIT

Andy Robbins, Wildlife Biologist Updated: 10-20-16

### DES MOINES COUNTY

#### Blackhawk Bottoms

Water levels: The water level has receded to near normal after sustaining major flooding by the Mississippi River in early October.

Vegetation: Most of the aquatic vegetation was destroyed during the recent flooding.

Boat Access: Accessible to mid-sized boats.

Notes: Construction is nearing completion on a joint wetland project funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Iowa DNR. A berm has been placed around the old crop fields north of Patterson Lake. Spring Creek has been diverted through the fields and a water control structure has been constructed. When completed, the project will add approximately 40 acres of wetland habitat to the area.

### LOUISA COUNTY

#### Cone Marsh

Water levels: Near normal fall crest.

Vegetation: There is currently a good mix of emergent and submergent vegetation. Overall, there is slightly less vegetation than the last few years.

Boat Access: Accessible to mid-sized boats.

Notes: Weather permitting, a drawdown of the marsh is planned for 2017 to maintain and encourage the growth of wetland and moist-soil plants.

#### Klum Lake

Water levels: The water level is near normal fall crest. The level has fallen slightly since earlier in the season due to the lack of local rainfall. However, pumping should still not be required this year.

Vegetation: There is dense submergent and emergent vegetation throughout the area. Aerial spraying of cattails and river bulrush in 2013 and 2014 along with heavy use by muskrats in 2015 has opened up the area significantly.

Boat Access: Accessible to small boats. Mud motors will likely be required due to thick submergent vegetation.

Notes:

#### Odessa Wildlife Area

Water levels: As of 10/17, the water level is approximately 3 feet above normal fall crest and falling slowly. Two emergency spillways in the Odessa levee were overtopped during major flooding on the Mississippi and Iowa Rivers in early October, causing the water level to rise to 6 feet above normal fall crest. The current Odessa water level can be monitored here:

<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=dvn&gage=odsi4>

Vegetation: There is almost no vegetation on Odessa due to high water on the Mississippi River that lasted throughout the growing season that prevented Odessa from being drawn down. The limited amount of moist-soil vegetation that had developed along the shorelines over the summer was destroyed in the recent flooding.

Boat Access: Accessible to large boats. As of 10/17, the boat ramps and accesses are still partially flooded but the approach is visible and boats can be launched at Schafer's Access. The parking lot and ramp should be out of the water at Sand Run in the near future. The Sand Run "beach" is currently inaccessible. The Toolesboro access road is still submerged and remains closed.

Notes:

## MUSCATINE COUNTY

### Wiese Slough

Water levels: The slough has returned to near normal fall crest after being impacted by major flooding on the Cedar River in early October.

Vegetation: A significant amount of vegetation was destroyed during the recent flood but there are still many areas of emergent and submergent vegetation throughout the slough.

Boat Access: Accessible to mid-sized boats.

Notes: The catwalk over the water control structure was damaged during the recent flood and will be repaired in the near future. Also, plans for the spring of 2017 are to remove and replace all of the decaying wooden stoplogs in the water control structure and replace them with steel stoplogs. This will likely require the complete draining of the slough to accomplish. With adequate rainfall the slough should re-fill by fall.

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## PRAIRIE LAKES WILDLIFE UNIT

Bryan Hellyer, Wildlife Biologist Updated: 9-21-16

## CLAY COUNTY

### Barringer Slough

Water levels: The slough is currently at crest.

Vegetation: A large portion of the wetland is densely vegetated with emergent and submergent vegetation; however there are open water areas to hunt on the south end.

Boat Access: Boat access will be somewhat difficult for all boats until some boat traffic and muskrat activity opens the area up.

Notes: Pre-season scouting is highly encouraged.

### Dan Green Slough

Water levels: The slough is currently at crest.

Vegetation: Emergent and submergent vegetation is very dense, but there are pockets of open water that can be accessed by boat.

Boat Access: The area can be accessed by all size boats, but the use of large boats or outboard motors may be hampered by the dense emergent and submergent vegetation.

Notes: Pre-scouting is highly encouraged.

### **DU Marsh**

Water levels: The marsh is currently at crest.

Vegetation: The area is vegetated with small open pockets of water.

Boat Access: Not accessible by boat.

Notes: Walk-in hunting opportunities will be available and pre-season scouting is highly encouraged.

### **Trumbull Lake-Smith Slough Complex**

Water levels: Most smaller wetlands in this complex are near crest. Trumbull Lake is at crest and Smith Slough is currently at crest.

Vegetation: Emergent and submergent vegetation has developed on a good portion of Trumbull Lake. Smith Slough has good stands of emergent and submergent vegetation.

Boat Access: Trumbull Lake is boat accessible, however the vegetation along the channel at Smith Slough is constantly shifting which can make boat access difficult at times.

Notes: Pre-scouting is highly encouraged.

## **EMMET COUNTY**

### **Cheever Lake**

Water levels: The water level is at crest.

Vegetation: Good stands of emergent vegetation can be found across the area. Most open water areas contain submergent vegetation. Clumps of cattails float back and forth across the open water when winds are strong.

Boat Access: Boat access will be difficult for the September teal season.

Notes: Hunters should be prepared to drag their boats over floating clumps of cattails as these clumps of vegetation can block channels at any time. Pre-season scouting is highly encouraged.

### **Four-Mile Lake Complex**

Water levels: Four-Mile Lake is at crest. Some of the larger wetlands in this complex should provide some walk-in opportunities.

Vegetation: Most wetlands have excellent stands of emergent vegetation. Four-Mile Lake has some open water areas that have become larger since the drawdown.

Boat Access: Boat access on the south end of 4-Mile Lake will be difficult due to the cattails constantly moving and blocking the channel. The ramp at the north end is available for small boats.

Notes: Pre-season scouting is highly encouraged.

### **Ingham-High Complex**

Water levels: East Slough is near crest. Most wetlands should have walk-in opportunities available, including portions of East Slough. Water levels on area lakes are at crest. Burr Oak Lake is at crest and walk-in opportunities should be available.

Vegetation: There are good amounts of emergent vegetation on small wetlands. Large wetlands have fringes of cattails along some shorelines, with scattered pockets of submergent vegetation in the open water.

Boat Access: Most areas can be accessed using small and medium size boats. Several areas are only accessible to walk-in hunting. The boat access at Burr Oak Lake will be difficult until a few boats create a usable channel.

Notes: Pre-scouting is highly encouraged.

### **Iowa Lake-Goose Lake Complex**

Water levels: Goose Lake is managed crest. Most other wetlands are at crest.

Vegetation: Nearly all wetlands have good stands of emergent vegetation. Goose Lake has a fringe of emergent vegetation with good stands of submergent vegetation.

Boat Access: Goose Lake is accessible by small boats however submergent vegetation will hamper motor use.

Notes: More walk-in hunting opportunities are available than last year. Pre-season scouting is highly encouraged.

### **Tuttle Lake Complex**

Water levels: Overall, water levels are near crest this year in this complex.

Vegetation: Most wetlands have good amounts of emergent vegetation.

Boat Access: There are no boat accesses on this area.

Notes: Walk-in hunting opportunities should be available.

## **PALO ALTO COUNTY**

### **Blue-wing Marsh**

Water levels: Blue-wing Marsh is at crest, and other small wetlands are near crest.

Vegetation: The marsh has good stands of emergent and submergent vegetation, but little open water due to low boat use and low muskrat activity.

Boat Access: Boat access will be extremely difficult and limited to small boats.

Notes: A few smaller wetlands are accessible by foot.

### **Dewey's Pasture Complex**

Water levels: Most small to large wetlands are near crest. Virgin Lake is several feet below crest due to a repair that is currently being completed to the water control structure.

Vegetation: Good stands of emergent vegetation can be found in most wetlands.

Boat Access: Most areas are not accessible by boat.

Notes: Walk-in hunting opportunities should be available.

### **Fallow Marsh**

Water levels: The majority of small wetlands are near crest, and should provide ample opportunities. The main marsh is near crest.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation growth is good.

Boat Access: There are no boat accesses on this area.

Notes: A few walk-in hunting opportunities are available. Pre-season scouting is highly encouraged.

### **Rush Lake**

Water levels: The water level is above crest.

Vegetation: Good stands of emergent vegetation persist with more submergent vegetation than last year.

Boat Access: Accessible by all size boats, but the use of large boats or outboard motors may be hampered by emergent and submergent vegetation.

Notes: There are many hidden pockets of open water off the main channel that provide excellent hunting sites. Accessing them, however, may require pulling the boat into these areas.

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## **RATHBUN WILDLIFE UNIT**

Jeff Telleen, Wildlife Biologist Updated: 10-20-16

## **APPANOOSE COUNTY**

## Rathbun Lake Complex

Water levels: Rathbun Lake elevation as of 10/20/16 is 904.81 (Normal fall pool is 905.60). The lake has been stable near this elevation since spring. The upper ends of the pool contain excellent annual vegetation to the waters edge but flooding of this vegetation will require significant inflows from rain events. The Brown's Slough and Goodwater Marsh impoundments have been drawn down for dike repairs. North Colyn has some water in it but many of the smaller impoundments have not received enough runoff to offset the uptake from all the vegetation. Water was run into the Coffey Marsh Refuge from the S56 impoundment and has some water in the vegetation. The South Colyn refuge is near full.

Vegetation: The upper ends of the North and South Chariton have excellent smartweed growth this year and will provide lots of seed. All of the impoundments have excellent smartweed. Coffey Marsh Refuge has excellent smartweed growth and will hold ducks.

Boat Access: Ramps at North County Line, Greenville Marsh, Atwell's Landing, Deadman's Landing, Rolling Cove and the South Fork ramp on S-71 are operational. Ramps at North Colyn, Woodpecker and Indian Ridge will require more water to be functional. All Corp and State Park ramps on the main lake are operational.

Notes: Impoundments and oxbows have lost significant amounts of water since the first season.

## Sedan Bottoms

Water levels: A major construction project is being contracted for this fall and many of the wetlands have been drawn down to allow the work to be done. The refuge area has been drawn down as much as possible to allow new river intakes to be placed and channels to be dug. Buckshot Lake has been drawn down to allow dike repairs and the replacement of the structure. The wetlands either side of the old town of Sedan have a fair amount of water but will be drawn down at some time to allow new structures to be installed. No work is being done on the 2 wetlands just north of Dean and they contain some water. The weir structure diverting water into the old channel on the SW corner has been left out to allow dirtwork on the south end.

Vegetation: The impoundments either side of Sedan have lots of aquatic vegetation as water was left in all summer to provide some wetland habitat. Good annual vegetation exists in the smaller basins and oxbows and will provide good duck food if we have a wet fall.

Boat Access: No ramps on the area. Small boats or canoes could be slid into drainage ditches along some of the roads.

Notes:

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## **RED ROCK WILDLIFE UNIT**

Todd Gosselink, Wildlife Biologist Updated 10-20-16

### **JASPER & POLK COUNTIES**

#### Colfax WMA and Chichaqua Bottoms Green Belt WMA

Water levels: Heavy rain in mid-September has increased water levels in these areas, which had been somewhat dry up to this point. River levels remain moderately full, and standing water is common in the lower areas with oxbows, ponds and wetlands full. If river levels remain high, most of the wetland will remain full.

Vegetation: Vegetation in most areas is good. The summer flooding was minimal, and therefore vegetation growth was good of which most is flooded again.

Boat Access: There are no boat accesses on this area.

Notes: Because these wetlands are on the river flood plain and in close proximity to the river channel, they are often underlain by porous soils and water levels are dependent upon the river water level, which is currently high.

### Rock Creek Marsh

Water levels: The water level is determined by the elevation of Rock Creek Lake, which is currently at crest.

Vegetation: There has been extremely heavy sedimentation the last few years resulting in reduced water surface area. The main marsh has some open water conditions, but dense willows and arrowhead plants fill much of the marsh. Some of the basins that have been isolated by sedimentation have good stands of emergent vegetation, primarily arrowhead.

Boat Access: Boat access is from the State Park boat ramps. Once north of the bridge, medium and larger boats with outboard motors may have difficulty because of silt deposition.

## **MARION COUNTY**

### Red Rock Reservoir

Water levels: Current lake level is 744.0 (as of October 20), and will remain at this level until freeze-up. Due to the potential for fluctuating lake levels, it is crucial monitor the lake water level and river flows at the USACE web site:  
<http://rivergages.mvr.usace.army.mil/WaterControl/stationinfo2.cfm?sid=PELI4&fid=PELI4&dt=S> ) The forecast of lake levels are found from this page:

Vegetation: There is some flooded natural vegetation and food for migrating waterfowl east of Swan, but higher lake levels (757) this summer that flooded out the vegetation in these lower areas of the reservoir. The lake was down to normal pool by July 2<sup>nd</sup>, but heavy rains rose to the lake to 745 end of July, setting the vegetation back again. This late raise in the lake pool provided an excellent opportunity to plant Japanese Millet in the mudflats in the beginning of August. Nearly 500 acres of Japanese Millet was planted in early August near Box Cars boat ramp, and in the Whitebreast Creek arm of Red Rock, east of HWY 14. Most of the millet remains upright, with good seed heads, even after recent high water that cover it completely for 10 days.

Boat Access: The boat ramp at “OK Hill” is accessible with very shallow draft boats and launching those may be questionable. The “Box Cars” and Bennington boat ramps are accessible with above average river levels. Box Cars boat ramp access road construction is finished and it is open for use. The walnut creek cut from Box Cars to the main river channel is passable, but with difficulty

Notes: Due to siltation, access in the Box cars and OK Hill areas can prove difficult, and hunters should be prepared for shallow areas that may not have been shallow the previous year due to flooding in the past year.

### Swan Refuge

Water levels: The refuge is very full due recent flooding, with water overtopping the dike. Pumping was planned this fall as needed to maintain water in the refuge, but recent flooding filled the refuge.

Vegetation: There are some natural moist soil plants in the refuge, but not ideal due to summer flooding. Corn was planted in the east portion of the refuge, but due to breeches in the dike, flooding the corn will not be possible.

Boat Access: There are no boat accesses on this area.



Notes: This is a Waterfowl Refuge. Access is restricted from 1 September until the end of the duck hunting season.

## **WARREN COUNTY**

### **Banner Flats WMA**

Water levels: The wetlands on this area are oxbows or constructed basins and currently are full of water. Water levels will vary depending upon the weather and the proximity of the wetland to the river channel, which is currently at normal levels.

Vegetation: Good stands of moist soil and emergent plants have developed during August after the summer flooding receded.

Boat Access: There are no boat accesses on this area.

Notes: These are walk-in areas.

### **Red Rock WMA South River Hartford Bottoms**

Water levels: There are numerous oxbows and constructed wetlands on this area. Most wetlands are currently full of water due to recent rains.

Vegetation: Good stands of moist soil and emergent plants have developed during August after the summer flooding receded.

Boat Access: There are no boat accesses on this area.

Notes: This marsh is an excellent walk-in site, with most of the water on the east side of the marsh.

### **Red Rock WMA Sub-impoundments Little Hartford and Big Hartford (Richard's Marsh)**

Water levels: Little Hartford wetland has some standing water currently due to above average river conditions, with the river backing up into the marsh. Big Hartford (Richard's Marsh) is full due to recent flooding, with the water a foot above the "crack" on the boat ramp. Pumping may be conducted this fall as needed to maintain full water levels in the marsh.

Vegetation: There is decent moist soil plant growth in Big Hartford since flood waters receded in June this past year. No agricultural crops were planted this spring in the marsh due to flood conditions. The few areas with standing water at Little Hartford have good vegetation.

Boat Access: The Little Hartford boat ramp is not accessible for boat launching. Big Hartford boat ramp is accessible for boats.

Notes: The pumping schedule will be determined by the lake levels and river flow, but at the present time we plan to perform pumping to keep the water level at or about 5' on the gauge. Little Hartford has severe seepage issues and requires special considerations before any pumping will be undertaken.

### **Runnells Marsh (newly constructed marsh)**

Water levels: The newly constructed Runnells Marsh (directly south of the town of Runnells) is currently full due to heavy river flows, and will be maintained full throughout waterfowl season.

Vegetation: There is fair moist soil plant growth throughout much of the Runnells Marsh. Since the marsh is at a higher elevation, much of the smartweed was not flooded out due to high lake water levels with this summer's flooding, but the Des Moines River flow through the marsh when out of its banks, deteriorating vegetation quality. The marsh has been kept low to maximize vegetative growth, but heavy river flows have submerged the vegetation earlier in the season than ideal.

Boat Access: Two new concrete boat ramps and a parking area have been completed at the marsh. This will allow excellent access for boats in the future. Current water levels allow for boats to launch, with access by boats throughout the entire marsh.



Notes: This marsh is an excellent walk-in site also, with good walk-in access from HWY 316 and the boat ramp. The southwest portion of the marsh can be accessed by crossing the dike and water control outflow structure on the south side of the marsh.

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## **SAYLORVILLE WILDLIFE UNIT**

Josh Gansen, Wildlife Biologist. Updated: 9-30-16

### **BOONE COUNTY**

#### **Harrier Marsh**

Water levels:

Vegetation:

Boat Access:

Notes:

### **GREENE COUNTY**

#### **Dunbar Slough WMA – Main Wetland**

Water levels: The water level is at fall crest.

Vegetation: Good stands of submergent and emergent vegetation have developed.

Boat Access: The area can be accessed by all size boats, but the use of large boats or outboard motors may be hampered by the dense submergent vegetation.

Notes: Rough fish have entered the wetland which will impact the water quality and vegetation in the future. A concrete boat ramp will be constructed in the Summer of 2017.

#### **Dunbar Slough WPA**

Water levels: Pool A/B are at crest, C and D have good water conditions.

Vegetation: Moist soil plant growth was excellent this year due to a complete drawdown on A/B cell.

Boat Access: There is a boat ramp. This area is suitable for small to mid-sized boats. New this year a channel has been created to connect the A and B segments. The remaining pools are walk-in access.

Notes: Pre-season scouting is highly encouraged.

#### **Finn Pond WMA**

Water levels:

Vegetation:

Boat Access:

Notes:

#### **Goose Lake WMA**

Water levels: The water level is at crest.

Vegetation: Emergent vegetation is limited to cattails. There is good submergent vegetation present.

Boat Access: The area can be accessed by all size boats, but the use of large boats or outboard motors may be hampered by submergent vegetation.

Notes: Pre-season scouting is highly encouraged

#### **Snake Creek WMA**

Water levels: All wetlands are at crest due to recent heavy rains.

Vegetation: Excellent stands of emergent vegetation are present.

Boat Access: None  
Notes: These are walk-in areas.

## **GUTHRIE COUNTY**

### **Bays Branch WMA**

Water levels: The water level is at fall crest.  
Vegetation: Poor emergent vegetation due to high water through most of the growing season  
Boat Access: Yes, but the use of larger boats maybe limited.  
Notes: Pre-season scouting is highly encouraged.

### **Lakin Slough**

Water levels: Lakin is 6 inches below crest.  
Vegetation: Nice stands of emergent vegetation have developed.  
Boat Access: The South ramp provides the best access for large boats and outboard motors. At this time the North ramp has very limited access  
Notes: Pre-season scouting is highly encouraged.

### **McCord Pond**

Water levels: 7 inches below crest  
Vegetation: Nice stands of emergent vegetation have developed.  
Boat Access: Small to Medium sized boats will provide the best access.  
Notes:

## **POLK COUNTY**

### **Saylorville Reservoir**

Water levels: Conservation Pool is 836.00. The pool level is currently 14 feet above Conservation Pool. Habitat conditions will be evaluated as flood water recede.  
Vegetation: Limited due to flooding  
Boat Access: The area is accessible to most boats  
Notes: Pre-season scouting is encouraged.

### **Big Creek WMA**

Water levels:  
Vegetation:  
Boat Access:  
Notes:

### **Errington Marsh**

Water levels: All wetlands are at crest due to recent heavy rains.  
Vegetation: Excellent stands of emergent vegetation.  
Boat Access: None  
Notes: These are walk-in areas.

## **STORY COUNTY**

### **Hendrickson Marsh**

Water levels: Water levels are at normal fall pool.  
Vegetation: Nice stands of submergent and emergent vegetation have developed. Willow bats have also developed during past draw downs and provide good cover.  
Boat Access: Yes

Notes: Areas will open up as muskrat activity increases as well as hunting activity.

### Colo Bogs

Water levels: Most basins are at crest.

Vegetation: Wetlands have abundant emergent vegetation.

Boat Access: No

Notes: These are walk-in areas.

## **WEBSTER COUNTY**

### Brushy Creek Lake

Water levels:

Vegetation:

Boat Access:

Notes:

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## **SUGEMA WILDLIFE UNIT**

Jeff Glaw, Wildlife Biologist Updated: 9-27-16

## **KEOKUK COUNTY**

### Hayesville Bend WMA

Water levels: High water on the South Skunk River has backfilled the wetland. There is decent water in the wetland now...

Vegetation: Good vegetation scattered throughout the wetland.

Boat Access: There are no boat accesses on this area.

Notes: Dike repairs will occur in October to repair previous flood damage. Make sure to scout the area ahead of waterfowl seasons.

## **VAN BUREN COUNTY**

### Lake Sugema

Water levels: The lake is at normal pool.

Vegetation: There is good vegetation along some of the shorelines.

Boat Access: Accessible to all size boats. All boat ramps are usable.

Notes: Silt retention wetland on northwest end of area is holding water and looks good this year. Silt retention wetland on Heather Ave. has been drawn down to replace control structure in September. Lake Sugema is still in a Canada goose closed zone.

### DeVoss/Foster WMA

Water levels: No water left in borrow areas. Need a few good rains to bring to crest.

Vegetation: A variety of desirable vegetation has developed on the area, including moist soil plants like smartweeds, barnyard grass and bidens.

Boat Access: There are no boat accesses on this area.

Notes: Make sure to scout the area before duck season.

### Fox River WMA

Water levels: Water is found in borrow areas of both segments on north side of area. Need more rain to have more huntable water this fall.

Vegetation: A decent amount of desirable vegetation has developed in all three wetlands.

Boat Access: There are no boat accesses on this area.  
Notes: Make sure to scout the area before duck seasons.

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## UPPER IOWA WILDLIFE UNIT

Terry Haindfield, Wildlife Biologist Updated: 9-21-16

### ALLAMAKEE

#### Mississippi River – Pool 9

Water levels: Water levels are above normal for this time of year.

Vegetation: High water events most of the summer have reduced emergent and submergent vegetation.

Boat Access: Some boat ramps may not be accessible due to high river levels.

Notes:

### CLAYTON COUNTY

#### Mississippi River – Pool 10

Water levels: Water levels are above normal for this time of year.

Vegetation: High water events most of the summer have reduced emergent and submergent vegetation.

Boat Access: Some boat ramps may not be accessible due to high river levels.

Notes:

### WINNESHIEK COUNTY

#### Cardinal Marsh

Water levels: Water levels are good on the Main Marsh, and allow boat access and walk in access. Water levels are good in all 4 segments.

Vegetation: Excellent mix of emergent vegetation and open pockets of water. Good annual vegetation and some submergent vegetation is scattered throughout the wetlands.

Boat Access: The Main Marsh boat ramp provides access for small and medium size boats. The 4 wetland segments provide excellent walk-in opportunity.

Notes:

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